

The Library Assistant :

The Official Journal of the Library Assistants' Association.

No. 205.

FEBRUARY, 1915.

Published Monthly.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS.

The **February Meeting** will be held on the 10th inst. at the **Public Library, Bancroft Road, Mile End, E.** From 7 p.m. there will be music, and light refreshments will also be served. At 7.30 p.m., MR. ALBERT CAWTHORNE, Borough Librarian of Stepney, will read a paper entitled, "LECTURE WORK IN CONNECTION WITH PUBLIC LIBRARIES," and Mr. COUNCILLOR BROWN, Chairman of the Stepney Public Libraries Committee, will preside.

The Meeting will be one of much interest in several ways. The Library was recently converted to the open-access system for works of non-fiction, and presents an instructive example of the dual arrangement. The Borough Reference Library, which is of notable proportions, is housed under the same roof, while the Lecture Hall possesses one or two unique features. The subject with which Mr. Cawthorne will deal is one on which he is well qualified to speak with the authority of a wide and varied experience. Few librarians have organized lectures of the type or on the scale of those arranged in connection with the Stepney Libraries, and few probably are more intimate with the actual influence of lectures than Mr. Cawthorne. It is distinctly an opportunity not to be missed by those who wish to add to their knowledge of this branch of modern library activity.

Bancroft Road adjoins the People's Palace in the Mile End Road, and is within a few minutes' walk of Mile End Station on the District Railway. Motor buses and cars from all parts pass the end of the road.

NORTH WESTERN BRANCH.

FEBRUARY MEETING.

The next meeting of the North Western Branch of the Library Assistants' Association will be held (by kind invitation of the Public Libraries Committee) at the CENTRAL PUBLIC LIBRARY, ROCHDALE, on WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 17th, at 6.0 p.m.

The following programme has been arranged:—

5.0 p.m. : Meeting of the COMMITTEE.

6.0 p.m. : General Meeting in the Art Gallery.

1. Address of welcome by ALDERMAN WILSON DUNNING, J.P., Chairman, Public Libraries, Museum, and Art Gallery Committee, Rochdale.
2. Discussion of subjects set for Essays in connection with the Library Association Examinations, 1915.
 - (a) Section 3. *Leader*: JAMES HINDLE, Deputy-Librarian, Public Libraries, Blackburn.
 - (b) Section 4. *Leader*: FRANK HELLIWELL, Assistant Librarian, and Sub-Curator, Public Libraries, Museum, and Art Gallery, Rochdale.
 - (c) Section 5. *Leader*: MAURICE J. WRIGLEY, Deputy-Librarian, Public Libraries, Stockport.
 - (d) Section 6. *Leader*: ERIC A. PEPIETTE, The University Library, Liverpool.

The leaders' contributions will take the form of brief explanations (limited to ten minutes each) of the scope of the essays, and will indicate the lines of research to be followed, and the most profitable sources of information.

A cordial invitation is extended to all Assistants in the North West, and those intending to be present at the meeting are requested to notify the *Hon. Secretary*, JAMES ROSS, Walton and Fazakerley Library, Liverpool, not later than Wednesday, February 10th.

ROCHDALE PUBLIC LIBRARIES, MUSEUM AND ART GALLERY.

The Rochdale Public Libraries, Museum, and Art Gallery are noted for their economic and efficient administration. The Libraries contain over 64,000 volumes, arranged on Brown's Subject System. In the Central Library there are separate departments for Ladies and Children, and special collections of local books and prints, music, and works dealing with wool and woollen manufacture. These institutions, which are exempt from the payment of income tax and local rates, are under the direction of Mr. R. J. Gordon, F.L.A.

EDITORIAL.

Glasgow's New Librarian.—As announced elsewhere, the coveted position of Librarian to the Glasgow Corporation has fallen to Mr. S. A. Pitt, City Librarian of Coventry. Mr. Pitt began his training 22 years ago as a junior in the South Shields Library, reaching the sub-librarianship in 1894. The sub-librarianship of Aberdeen claimed three years of Mr. Pitt's professional experience, after which he joined the Glasgow staff, attaining the position of Superintendent of Branches, which he held from 1903 to 1909; thus he is no stranger to Glasgow.

It was fortunate for Coventry that the city's remarkable growth—the last census showed an increase in ten years of 40,000 in population—should coincide with Mr. Pitt's official tenure, for the revolutionising of the whole Coventry public library system showed Mr. Pitt to be an organiser of ability and determination of purpose. Mr. Pitt's further career at Glasgow will be watched with interest by his professional friends with a lively anticipation that his influence will tend towards some mitigation of that hide-bound conservatism which is still traditional of Scottish library activity. Unless we are much mistaken, the new librarian of Glasgow recognises the value of unity and co-ordination in professional inter-relationship, and no one can maintain that this side of professional bearing has been encouraged by Scottish librarians. We make no apology, therefore, if we see in Mr. Pitt's appointment some grounds for hope that the bonds between English and Scotch librarianship and professional amity may be strengthened. We look forward with some confidence to the time when we shall regard the origin of a fresh and strong impetus to English and Scotch professional relationship as coincident with Mr. Pitt's appointment to Glasgow. Like many busy men, Mr. Pitt has found time to minister to the needs of others. Of his work in connection with the classes for assistants, promoted by the Birmingham and District Library Association, a student recently wrote, "Mr. Pitt is a saint in his work for us."

We congratulate Mr. Pitt; we congratulate no less heartily Glasgow and Scotch librarianship.

Our Branches.—The Yorkshire Branch of the L.A.A. has every reason to be gratified with the result of the year's working shown in its Annual Report published in the current issue of *The Assistant*. These are times of subdued tendencies in all forms of intellectual progress, and it is therefore the more pleasing to be able to congratulate our Yorkshire colleagues on a substantial increase of nineteen in its membership. The branch now shows a

total membership of 93, and we may rely on it that an effort will be made to reach the 100 stage during the session just commenced. The South Coast Branch is experiencing the buffets of fortune. In addition to the loss of its late indefatigable secretary, its present secretary and late chairman, Mr. Male, has joined the Colours. We understand that Mr. Webb, of the Brighton Public Library, has taken up the secretariate, and we have no fear but that the branch will triumphantly justify a conviction of its ability to weather its difficulties. The North Western branch is proving itself to be of a lusty and vigorous constitution, as we always contended it would prove to be. The Midland Branch is carrying on notwithstanding severe depletion; the result of its loyalty. In a time of crisis such as we are experiencing, it is useless to deny the element of danger that threatens librarianship. Unity of purpose and a determination to do the best that is in us, individually as well as collectively, may do much to avert the danger, but a hint of the possibility of a prolonged war and resultant national retrenchment, should be sufficient to bring home to the profession at large the ominous nature of the danger which threatens librarianship.

A FEW THOUGHTS ON LIBRARIANSHIP IN TIME OF WAR.*

By W. C. BERWICK SAYERS, Croydon Public Libraries.

There can be no more useful thing for us at this time than to discuss together the influence which the great life and death struggle of the nations is certain to have upon our profession. Look at the question from whatever viewpoint you may choose, "things will never be the same again." If only in matters of personality there will be change. Already, one of my librarian friends writes to me that he cannot think how he will endure the confinement of four walls when the necessarily open-air days of military service are over. There is a significance even in this. Ten per cent. of our effective men have responded to the national necessity. Heartily and sincerely as we honour our own words and their courage, we wish them safety and a speedy return. But will they be ready to resume "the common round" in libraries? In many cases, yes; since we can accustom ourselves to most things that are necessary. Some, however, will not return.

*A paper read at a meeting of the Library Assistants' Association at the Fulham Central Library, on Wednesday, January 6th, 1915.

This I mention merely as an example and a possibility. I hope sincerely that as a prophecy it may be false. It is preliminary, however, to a few points which we may consider in war time; points which I will state briefly in question form, and then enlarge upon for a few minutes.

1. Is the War likely to reduce the safety, the utility, and the necessity of libraries?
2. Has the policy adopted by some authorities of suspending the work of parts of their libraries been the best possible in the circumstances?
3. What are the probable effects of the War upon the profession of librarianship?
4. Will the War have an aftermath for libraries?

Upon each of these points a debate might be based.

If a library is a public utility it should necessarily come into operation in war periods. It has been a source of gratification that most library authorities have realised that they must act as centres of information at present; must provide all forms of literature in any way elucidating or chronicling the great events by which we are surrounded. Most authorities have had sufficient imagination to recognize this principle, a principle which I think can be co-ordinated. We can insist primarily that all work of the libraries shall be directly conducive to the aims of the authorities. Consider: the various local units of the forces require the closest knowledge of the area in which they operate. At this time, then, the whole of our national material on local topography—books, maps, photographs—must be focussed ready for use. Every Government publication, Order in Council, proclamation, report and bulletin, should be kept and arranged in classified chronological order, for immediate reference. It should be possible to supply at any Public Library such information as (a) where recruits are wanted and the required standards, (b) the casualties of November 19th, (c) the postage to the Front—in short, any of the useful information of the commonplace order, which is not always so easily accessible as is sometimes imagined.

These are the more obvious duties of libraries; but, if intellectual sanity and a regard for the continuity of national life are desirable qualities, the library has here a more subtle, but still simple duty, in informing people that there are still other things than war; and this in no such manner as will minimise in any way the gravity of the issues with which we are faced. But we must continually bring before our readers the best in literature, in science, in art; in short, in ideas, because in the long run the thought of man is greater than war; and in these

days when "reparation" and "revenge" are justly themes upon almost every tongue, we can best keep alive the spirit which is greater than these by thrusting before people the best that men have written and thought. When every newspaper, every periodical, every poster, flames with the one all-pervading topic, we can lend relief, and perhaps thereby help to conserve the balance of the national mind by urging that beside Nietzsche, von Bernhardt, and von Buelow, there are still on our shelves *The Vicar of Wakefield* and Heine's *Poems*, whose influence will outlast them and that of this War.

If we can prove our worth on these lines to the unimaginative Englishman, the question of our safety is answered.

My second question is a difficult one. Those libraries which have shut their doors because of the absence of their staffs on active service, can justly plead *force majeure*. They have closed mainly for financial reasons; as a rule they are paying the salaries of the absent ones; they have no further funds for extra or temporary staffs, even assuming that such staffs were available. Such staffs are not available, and the difficulties that arise from the employment of untrained or otherwise inefficient help are too great for any librarian to encounter them with complacency. Two courses were open to such Libraries as Bournemouth, Southwark, and (I believe) Camberwell, whose staffs have done honour to the profession by enlisting in large numbers: to reduce largely the hours of public service, and to increase largely the hours of work by the remaining staffs throughout their systems; or, by closing particular departments or branches entirely, to concentrate the whole of their staffs upon one or a few libraries, and to keep them at normal activity. The second of these two courses has been adopted by the Libraries I have named, and in any large town it seems to me the wiser policy; it is better to have one really effective library than any number which are ineffective or less effective. There is, however, reason to see a danger signal here, as I shall show in a moment.

My third question is both economic and professional. Will the war challenge or enhance our position as librarians? The obvious answer is that it is unlikely to affect our position in any way, but as we are dealing with possibilities as well as probabilities, it is worth while asking ourselves what would happen if the War lasted for any great length of time. It is a fact in economics that at times of financial crisis men restrict first their luxuries, then those things which are not material necessities, and finally the material necessities themselves. We may flatter ourselves justly that a library is a communal necessity, but the man in the street is not convinced, and, should a protracted

financial drain upon the country occur, there is no doubt that the library would be in danger of being considered one of the things not materially necessary; and in such circumstances the official is dispensed with before the institution. The War, therefore, could conceivably affect our security of tenure, especially as the public librarian is at the mercy of a majority of such variable human beings as form the average town council.

A second consideration affects us very nearly. In peace times we have difficulty in getting junior assistants, but in war time we find that boys can earn the wages of men in other occupations, and these occupations, mark you, are not merely of the labouring and artisan sort. The men at the Front are drawn very largely from the middle class, and the work of such men as these will fall to the lot of the boys who might have entered our libraries. The absence of our staffs on temporary leave, too, complicates the problem. Girls might be appointed on the understanding that they leave at the end of the war, but I think it will be found much more difficult to get rid of them at the end of the war than is commonly supposed. The result may, therefore, be a large influx of women workers into the profession. Without the least idea of superseding men, women may think over the great opportunities for library work that have opened to them in these war conditions. I leave them to find the moral of the position for themselves.

Finally, what will the coming of peace bring with it? Those libraries which have closed some part of their systems may be faced with the fact that no complaints of the disappearance of the libraries have been received from the districts where the closing has taken place. More especially will this be the case where the libraries are most needed; for there, as H. G. Wells says, the libraries are least *wanted*. Moreover, committees may find that the closing has been a gratifying relief to the library income, and may be content to continue a restricted library service. It is just possible to imagine further that the financial condition of this country will be so strained that few or no developments in library work will take place for at least a decade after the war. These are possibilities even in the anticipated event of victory. I do not contemplate what would happen if we were not successful. I am inclined to think that after a successful War our staffing difficulties will be greatly increased. The great drain upon our national manhood will necessarily throw open avenues of work for every available competent man for some years to come. To take one instance only. The large numbers of German business officials are not likely to be reinstated for the first year or two, and there will be great opportunities for Englishmen who can present qualifications

similar to theirs. It is hardly likely that men will endure the ill-pay, hard study, and awkward hours of librarianship when other more comfortable and more remunerative positions invite them.

There is another side to the whole question, the one to which I incline personally. It is our common experience that the end of war brings a revulsion against the activities and pursuits of war, and a corresponding flow of national will towards the pursuits of peace. While literature is inspired and elevated to no small extent by war, insomuch that every great epoch of literature has been a great epoch of war, the *use* of literature belongs pre-eminently to the time of peace. When, therefore, a glorious peace dawns upon England, we may expect a renaissance of library effort such as the last century has not seen. There may, therefore, be large opportunities for the librarians who remain and who return. At the same time, there may be difficulties in that age; for, if a renaissance of library activity occurs, it may bring greater demands upon the librarian than he, in his present state of evolution, is qualified to meet. I do not fear this acutely; the librarian has in large measure risen to the necessities of his position; I do not think he will fail in the future.

These are a few thoughts that I have had upon the all-important times in which we live; they are not convictions; they do not presume to be prophesies; they are merely reflections. If they are wrong-headed or angular, no one will be more pleased than myself to have them controverted.

PROCEEDINGS.

JANUARY GENERAL MEETING.

The January Meeting was held on Wednesday, the 6th, at the Fulham Central Library. Refreshments were served to the members before the meeting, which was presided over by the Borough Librarian, Mr. W. S. C. RAE. In all, nearly 30 members were present. The CHAIRMAN, in the course of his address of welcome on behalf of himself and staff, spoke of the Fulham meeting as annual events, and thought that very flattering to them. He remarked on the smallness of the meetings at this time owing to the large number of enlistments, but considered that they who remained had a duty to perform. He enlarged upon the need for expanding the membership of the Association, and dwelt especially upon the lack of a branch in Scotland, where a large number of assistants were unconnected with the L.A.A. He recommended that meetings should be held at libraries not

previously visited, though they were always glad to see them at Fulham, and an endeavour should be made to get at least one new member per visit.

After the minutes of the previous meeting had been read, Mr. W. C. BERWICK SAYERS delivered a short address on THE EASTER SCHOOL OF 1914, with lantern illustrations. This was supplemented by A FEW THOUGHTS ON LIBRARIANSHIP IN TIME OF WAR, which appears elsewhere in *The Assistant*.

An interesting discussion was opened by Miss M. GILBERT (Fulham) who agreed that women were affected, as they were employed more owing to the men's absence. After the war, some of the women would go, but the best would stay. Mr. W. B. THORNE (Poplar) thought that grave questions were raised meriting earnest consideration. Properly organised libraries would not suffer, they would become the nerve centres of the district. Some librarians had failed to recognise their responsibilities; there were instances of places where no war literature or maps had been provided until months after the outbreak of war. Those responsible were a danger to themselves and to their fellow librarians. Mr. J. D. YOUNG (Greenwich) said that everything depended on the length of the war. If the worst should happen, nothing they could do would be of the slightest use, for they would have to go, in common with others. He agreed as to libraries being information centres, but he thought that a great deal more accurate information on some subjects was to be had at the nearest recruiting office. He considered that the people who use and appreciate libraries would be unwilling to give them up except in the direst necessity. The HONORARY TREASURER was of opinion that unless a colossal financial disaster were to happen, libraries were safe. In that event, nothing they could do would save them. Special reading facilities should be offered the troops encamped in one's own neighbourhood. An enormous social awakening which would add to rather than diminish the demand for libraries, would be one outcome of the war. No loophole, however, should be offered for the opportunity of dispensing with their services, and therefore it was a mistake to close any department, and they should not admit even the possibility of doing so. A fifty per cent. increase of working hours was better. Miss O. E. CLARKE (Islington) was sorry to learn that library departments had been closed. Those concerned should have held out and worked longer hours. She was sure that the trained women assistants in other libraries would have given their services for a few hours to aid those on active service. She protested against the idea that women were trying to oust men; that this crisis was an opportunity of inserting the thin end of the wedge. THE

CHAIRMAN said that it was the first time he had heard Mr. Sayers take up a pessimistic attitude towards the Library Movement. It had never occurred to him to close any of their Branches, they had engaged some very nice young ladies to take the place of those away. The public had not suffered, indeed, he thought they rather liked the change. The new assistants were, however, only temporary, and would have to go when the others came back, but he thought that the open-air life would deter some of the boys from returning to library work. He had much pleasure in proposing a vote of thanks to Mr. Sayers for his excellent paper. Mr. SAYERS, in replying, urged that a discussion of possibilities in all circumstances was a highly desirable thing, and was not necessarily pessimism. He had no fear for the future, if librarians knew how to meet the present. A similar vote to the Chairman and the Fulham Libraries' Staff was moved and seconded by THE HONORARY EDITOR and Mr. J. E. WALKER (Tottenham).

MIDLAND BRANCH.

To the number of nearly twenty, members of the Midland Branch assembled for a meeting on Thursday, December 10th. The party included Mr. L. Chubb, lately of Cardiff, Mr. F. W. C. Pepper, formerly of Bolton, and Mr. H. Wilson, until recently of Hove. In the evening the meeting was enlivened by the appearance in uniform of the nine librarian members of the 1st Birmingham City Battalion. Upon the invitation of the Lord Abbot, the afternoon was spent in paying a visit of inspection to the Abbey at Erdington, a Benedictine foundation, where members were most kindly received and hospitably entertained by the Brothers. Many objects of interest were inspected, including costly vestments of great artistic beauty, skilfully executed carvings, sacred relics, and numerous examples of art work produced by members of the Order. In the spacious and well furnished library many rare and valuable books were exhibited, as well as a goodly collection of interesting photographs. The visit was made especially enjoyable by the great kindness of the Brothers, whose wide knowledge, not only of books, but of the world, rendered their conversation a delightful stimulus. At tea the Brothers waited in person upon the visitors.

Leaving the Abbey, a flying visit was paid to the Branch Library at Erdington, the architectural features of which were greatly admired, as were also the interior arrangements. Then by tram car to Aston, where members had an opportunity of inspecting yet another of the Birmingham Branch Libraries, this containing a valuable, varied, and extensive stock.

The evening meeting took place in the Council Chamber adjoining, the use of which had been kindly granted by Mr. Walter Powell, Chief Librarian, Birmingham.

In opening the proceedings the Chairman, Mr. H. Grindle, referred to the effects of the war upon the activities of the Midland Branch. No meeting had taken place since that at Coventry in May last. Another effect had been that nine prominent members of the branch had volunteered for oversea service with the colours. The Chairman gave expression to the best wishes of the branch for their safe and speedy return. Since the previous meeting there had been the loss of membership caused by resignation of Mr. J. P. Lamb, who had recently been appointed to a position in the Rochdale Public Library, and for whom they wished every possible success. On the other hand they were glad to welcome among them Messrs. Chubb, Pepper, and Wilson, who would doubtless become active members of the branch.

Mr. F. W. C. PEPPER then read a paper upon the "Classification of Biography," a paper which has already appeared in the *L. A. Record*. His contention that biography as a form should be ignored, and that works in this class should be placed with the subjects upon which they treat, was combated by Messrs. CASHMORE and CHECKETTS. There was much that was purely theoretical to be said in favour of such an arrangement. The demand that works should be grouped by subject was already met in the case of those not strictly biographical, as for example, works of literary criticism. Lives of Rulers were placed with the history of their respective countries. But the outstanding fact about a biography was that it was the life of a person. As a matter of practical application it would be an ingenious and successful device for hiding many well-known and much sought-for books.

Mr. H. WILSON followed with a vigorous and trenchant paper upon "Examinations and the Economic Position of the Library Assistant." In his view the prospects of the average assistant left much to be desired. The inducement of promotion and higher salaries had been held out as reward for the possession of L.A. certificates. In some places, it was true, assistants had been so rewarded—notably in Birmingham—but, speaking of the profession generally, the higher standard attained, the marked improvement in its personnel had exerted only the very slightest effect upon the general rate of pay. While salaries and wages in other trades and professions were steadily rising, the pay of the library assistant for the most part remained stationary—except where it had declined. The great paymaster, the British

Public, had not yet realised that the efficient service which was now being given had not been fairly recognised.

Mr. Wilson's paper led to a brisk discussion, which was opened by Mr. M. C. HUNT, the contentious portions of the paper being chiefly those relating to long hours, L.A. certificates, and the L.A. syllabus.

YORKSHIRE BRANCH ANNUAL MEETING.

The EIGHTH ANNUAL MEETING of the Yorkshire Branch was held in the CENTRAL PUBLIC LIBRARY, LEEDS, on Thursday, January 21st, by kind permission of Mr. T. W. HAND, City Librarian.

Members assembled at the library at 4.30 p.m., and then proceeded to the now famous "Wray's Café," where their physical wants were attended to in the shape of a substantial tea. Having performed the tea-taking ceremony to their own individual satisfaction, members returned to the library, and at the subsequent meeting, presided over by the Chief Librarian of Leeds, Mr. T. W. HAND, the Editor of the *Yorkshire Post*, Mr. J. S. R. PHILLIPS delivered an inspiring address on "Why I Praise Public Libraries."

A vote of thanks was passed to Mr. Phillips, on the motion of Mr. J. A. BUTTERFIELD (Bradford), seconded by Mr. E. OSBORNE (Sheffield), and supported by Mr. T. THOMPSON, a member of the Leeds Libraries Committee. Mr. HAND was also thanked for presiding, and for the use of the room, on the motion of the President of the Branch, Mr. G. W. STROTHER, seconded by Mr. W. POLLITT (Leeds).

At the business meeting which followed, the HONORARY SECRETARY, Mr. R. W. PARSONS, presented the ANNUAL REPORT, which is appended.

The following Officers and Committee were elected for the new year:—*President*: G. W. STROTHER (Leeds). *Vice-Presidents*: J. C. HANDBY (Bradford), R. INESON (Leeds). *Honorary Treasurer*: W. PROCTER (Leeds). *Honorary Secretary*: R. W. PARSONS (Bradford). *Committee*: Miss HAINSWORTH (Leeds), Miss HUMMERSTON (Leeds), Miss SEATON (Harrogate), J. A. BUTTERFIELD (Bradford), A. H. GILLGRASS (Hull), H. GOULDEN (Huddersfield), F. HAIGH (Halifax), E. OSBORNE (Sheffield), W. POLLITT (Leeds), D. L. STRACHAN (Leeds), F. J. TAYLOR (Barnsley), J. W. WALKER (Leeds).

Retiring Officers were thanked for their services, on the motion of Mr. GREENWOOD (Bradford) and Mr. JOHNSON (Sheffield); and the compliment was also paid to the retiring Committee, on the motion of Miss HUMMERSTON (Leeds) and Miss SHARP (Leeds).

YORKSHIRE BRANCH.

ANNUAL REPORT.

Your committee have pleasure in submitting for your approval their Annual Report, which, in spite of frustrated efforts in consequence of the war, records several degrees of distinct progress.

The conflict of European States has been responsible for many things, including the postponement of meetings, conferences, etc., and our own programme has suffered from this cause, only three meetings being held during the past year instead of five. The two meetings which had been proposed for Doncaster and Barnsley had to be cancelled owing to large numbers of troops being quartered in those towns, and many public buildings being used for billeting purposes.

However, in spite of the war clouds overhanging, your committee have been alive to their responsibilities, and the results of their labours are recorded in the following report.

MEETINGS.

Perhaps the outstanding feature of the past year's work was the Annual Meeting of the Library Assistants' Association in Leeds, on Whit-Monday, June 1st. But the second occasion on which the Annual Meeting has been held in the provinces, the Leeds meeting was a magnificent success. This success was due not only to the large-hearted hospitality, and other expressions of cordiality and comradeship on the part of the Yorkshire Members, but also to the brilliant organization by Mr. MacLennan, and his able lieutenant, Mr. Pollitt, and the effective discharge of manifold duties by those gentlemen and the rank and file of the Leeds Staff.

Other interesting meetings were held at Bradford (in March) and Leeds (in April), the Leeds meeting taking the form of a visit to the Leeds Technical School: Department of Photography, Printing, etc. For this visit we were indebted to the Head of the Department, Mr. Bottomley, F.R.P.S., and the recollection of that gentleman's lucid explanation of the various methods of process and letterpress work, the practical demonstrations, and the magnificent exhibition of lantern slides made from direct colour photography, affords enjoyable and profitable reflection.

CLASSES.

Another interesting feature of the past year's work was the renewed efforts to establish classes for Assistants in conjunction with Leeds University, the local Education Authorities, and the Library Association. This effort was the result of the suggestion

made by Prof. Gordon in the course of his very able address at the Whitsuntide Meeting. Your committee followed up that suggestion in a very enthusiastic manner; but it is deeply regretted that just at the moment when these efforts were expected to bear fruit, the prime mover in the matter (Prof. Gordon) should be called away to military duties.

However, when peace has been restored, no efforts will be spared to bring this desirable feature of our Education Programme into operation; and, assuming a safe return to his scholastic duties, we are assured of Prof. Gordon's whole-hearted co-operation and support in all our endeavours.

PERSONALIA.

The personnel of the Branch has been subject to various changes during the past year. Mr. J. B. Ellison compulsorily vacated the office of President on his promotion to the Librarian-ship of the Oldham Lyceum; and Mr. N. Treliving found it necessary to resign the secretaryship on account of more pressing duties in other directions.

Your committee have placed on record their high appreciation of the services these gentlemen have rendered to the Branch, in full confidence that you will heartily endorse those appreciations.

MEMBERSHIP.

The membership of the Branch is a matter for much satisfaction. During the year 23 new members have been admitted to the Association, 13 at the last Annual Meeting, and 10 since; and only 4 have been lost through resignations. This leaves our total membership at 93, a net increase of 19 on the previous year.

While reviewing our membership it may be of interest to note that Yorkshire library assistants are represented at present in His Majesty's Forces by 21 of our members; and many others, who, through pressure of public duties have not been able to join the Army, are displaying their patriotism by serving in Volunteer Forces, or as Special Constables, or rendering extremely valuable help on Relief Committees, etc.

MEMBERSHIP CARDS.

Your committee have had under consideration the question of Membership Cards; and they hope to be able to place these in your hands at an early date, in the form of a handy little booklet.

FINANCE.

The Honorary Treasurer will submit his Financial Statement to your notice, a statement which we feel certain merits your approval. Briefly, it shows that our income has exceeded our

expenditure by £3 0s. 6d., the income being £17 7s. 4d., and the expenditure being £14 6s. 10d.

These, ladies and gentlemen, are the more salient features of the past year's work; and this record of them is presented for your consideration as a brief indication of the many ways in which your officers and committee have endeavoured to discharge their responsibilities.

ROBERT W. PARSONS,
Hon. Secretary.

CENTRAL IRISH BRANCH.

The November meeting of the Central Irish Branch was held on Wednesday evening, November 25th, at the Rathmines Public Library by the courtesy of Mr. John Roy, librarian, and the Rathmines Library Authority. Mr. John Roy occupied the chair. A discussion on the merits of open access over closed libraries had been announced, and accordingly Mr. J. D. MCQUISTON, of the National Library of Ireland, opened the discussion with a strong plea for the former on the grounds of its educational value, its simplicity, and the general satisfaction it gives to the public. Mr. T. GAY, of Thomas Street Public Library, followed with an admirable defence of the closed library. The following gentlemen also spoke mostly in favour of the open access system:—Messrs. JOHN ROY, T. H. EVANS (Hon. Secretary), JOHN CONDON, Librarian, Royal College of Science, F. BLAKE, H. YOUNG, E. J. BEHAN, P. J. O'CONNOR and T. COULSON (Belfast), whom we were glad to welcome amongst us before he left Ireland to serve at the Front. An interesting meeting concluded with a vote of thanks to the Chairman.

CORRESPONDENCE.

LIBRARY ASSOCIATION EXAMINATIONS.

To the Editor of THE LIBRARY ASSISTANT.

Dear Sir,

With reference to the subject of the essay in Section 5 of the Library Association Examinations, I notice that candidates are required to submit an essay on plans of recent branch libraries costing about £5,000 each. I shall be glad to send to any student applying to me, a copy of a Souvenir, with reproductions of plans and elevations, of the three Carnegie Branch Libraries which were erected in Bolton in 1910.

Yours faithfully,

CENTRAL LIBRARY, BOLTON,
9th January, 1915.

ARCHIBALD SPARKE,
Chief Librarian.

L.A.A. ROLL OF HONOUR.

FIFTH LIST.

- Belfast:** THOMAS COULSON (2nd Lieut. Royal Irish Rifles), D. J. H. SIMPSON (2nd Lieut. Tyneside Scottish Batt.), J. McCausland (Acting-Sergeant, 8th Batt. Royal Irish Rifles, Ulster Div.), J. F. EAGLESON (R.A.M.C., Ulster Div.).
- Birmingham:** *A COLLIER and B. B. ECKETT (both 14th Batt. Royal Warwickshire Regt.).
- Brighton:** *E. MALE (1st Sussex Regt., R.G.A.).
- Croydon:** *S. D. NIGHTINGALE (4th Batt. Royal West Surrey Regt.).
- Hornsey:** *E. C. DODD and *H. W. COATES (both of 9th Batt. Middlesex Regt.).
- Lambeth:** G. O. ALLARD (23rd Batt. County of London), H. E. MOORE (Army Pay Corps), B. WALKER (1st Batt. Coldstream Guards—Prisoner of War in Germany), E. D. WOOD (21st Batt. County of London).
- Leyton:** *W. H. SUNLEY (A.S.C.), *B. CROOK (Argyle and Sutherland Highlanders), G. BYFORD (7th Essex), E. SMITH (Seaforth Highlanders).
- Liverpool, University Library:** *J. S. MUNDAY (4th City Batt., Liverpool).
- Port Elizabeth, S.A.:** *A. D. CARLISLE (E. Squadron, Southern Rifles, for service in German South-West Africa).
- St. Pancras:** *J. F. PREECE (R.A.M.C.).

*Member L.A.A.

APPOINTMENTS.

PITT, Septimus A., City Librarian of Coventry, has been appointed City Librarian of Glasgow.

NOTE.—The final list consisted of Messrs. R. ADAMS (Mitchell Library), J. NORRIE (Branch Librarian, Glasgow), and S. A. PITT. The Libraries Committee recommended Mr. Adams for the position, but the Council threw out the suggestion, and appointed Mr. Pitt by 51 to 39 votes.

*BOREHAM, A., Assistant, West Norwood Public Library, has been appointed Senior Assistant, Upper Norwood Public Library.

*EDGE, H., Junior Assistant, Bolton Public Libraries, has been appointed Assistant Librarian at the Marshall Branch Library, Burnley.

The other selected candidates were: *H. WILKINSON (Co-operative Library, Burnley); *E. A. BOTTOMLEY (Rochdale); and *T. R. JACKSON (Dewsbury).

GRIMSDITCH, H. B., has been appointed temporary Junior Assistant in the University Library, Liverpool.

*Member, L.A.A.

NEW MEMBERS.

Member: Miss D. B. Scott (Peterhead).

Associate: Ralph Wright (Ealing); A. E. Pitt (Poplar).